The allotment of time for the discussion of Demands.

President.—I was not present at the close of the sitting of yesterday, but I understood that you were able to get through the demand under "Education". It would appear that two demands were proposed to be discussed yesterday, namely, "Education" and "Scientific, etc., Departments". It was in accordance with the representations made to me by the Members of this Council that I proposed to discuss definite heads on particular days .I have to give due consideration to all the heads, and we must finish our work within the allotted seven days. Now we were not able to take up the other head, and I have been thinking over the question as to how we will be able to get through our programme of work, and on referring to the Rules, I saw really an omission to note at what time one particular demand will have to be concluded. I think it is now necessary to give the time-limit for each demand, because. I find that, for every day, there is more than one demand, and it is very likely that the whole of the day might be taken up with the discussion of that demand, and when we come to the last day, the 7th day, we might not have disposed of all the demands. So, I propose to give a time-limit to the demands fixed for each day. My proposal is that at a particular hour the consideration of each demand must be completed. I mean to say that the discussion under that demand must be concluded, and I will have to put the demand to the vote of the House; because I find here, as per Rule 49 (1), not more than 7 days shall be allotted for the discussion of the demands for grants. The rule is more by way of restriction of the time. I mean to say that the maximum that I can allow is only one day, and it is left to me to reduce the time according to the circumstances of the case. So my idea underlying this time-limit is that the particular demands should be finished on the days fixed for them. Now, having regard to our experience of yesterday, it is necessary that I must fix the time, also the particular hour, at which the discussion will have to be concluded. I propose to do that.

And one other thing that I wish to bring to your notice is this. Here I can only appeal to the good sense of the Members to stand by me and support me. There was a reference yesterday to the needless waste of the valuable time of the Members of the Council. Of course, I note that, and I shall see that every minute of ours is employed in the most useful way. I think it has become necessary also to fix the time for the speeches on these motions. It is left to my discretion. We are not now in the general discussion stage where the principles and policies of the Government have to be commented upon. Here,

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we are to discuss the cut motions, and I think that it does not require a long speech. What is required is that the points in connection with that cut motion have to be urged by you, and there the matter must be concluded. I do not think it will be possible for me to allow long speeches in connection with these cut motions. If I allow that, you may not be able to get through even a dozen cut motions, and so I propose that the mover of the cut motions will be allowed 5 minutes, and those that succeed him will be allowed three minutes. And within that time the speech must be concluded. And so far as to-day's heads are concerned, namely, Public Works, Excise, and Customs including Marine, we have got three heads to-day, and then there is the head "Scientific, etc., Departments". I just want your opinion in order that I may not be supposed to put an arbitrary limit. I am open to reconsider the matter. Suppose I allow half an hour for "Scientific, etc., Departments" and two hours for "Public Works" and one and a half hours for "Excise—Customs". I think we may be able to get through the heads.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I think so, Sir.

President.—So that you see, because there may be many cut motions with regard to which the attention of the Government may have to be drawn only to certain points—after all, many of them may not be pressed. Therefore, if we have to get through all the cut motions this time-limit is absolutely necessary. And if the Members are allowed to have their own way without interruption, we will not be able to do full justice to the work before us. We have only 3½ hours at our disposal to-day. Every day we work 4½ hours a day, 2½ in the morning and 2 in the afternoon, and one hour is taken up by questions. Then, we have got only 3½ hours at our disposal. With these 3½ hours we have to manage. Supposing I put half an hour for "Scientific, etc., Departments," 2 hours for "Public Works".

Dr. A. G. Menon.—May I bring to your notice, Sir, that there are more cuts in the Public Works than in the Excise budget? So some time more may be allotted for "Public Works".

President.—Then I will put 2½ hours for "Public Works" and one hour for "Excise" or the remaining part of the day may be given to "Excise". So what I mean to say is that I will allow 2½ hours for "Public Works" and one hour for "Excise". And in regard to the agenda for to-morrow and the remaining days, I will fix the time and intimate it to you.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I think it will be proper to give us this information, for we might regulate our motions on the budget.

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President.—For the heads for to-morrow I will be making arrangements, and the fact will be intimated to you.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I am only speaking with regard to the cut motions for to-day. In regulating to-day's time-limit you might know that from our Party we have only 4 cuts on "Public Works," which we are going to press to a division.

President.—As regards the Excise and Scientific, etc., Departments, I think you have only few cuts which you wish to press to a division.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We want time only for "Public Works," and very little time will be necessary for the other heads. These are the 4 cuts which we wish to press to a division.

President.—Please tell me, so that I may note them.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Nos. (1), (9), (12) and (13) and (44).

President.—The only thing is we will have to disturb the order.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Not in the least. We will not move the other cuts, and we intend to move these only when they are asked to be moved in their order. It is only on these 4 cuts we will require some time. As to the others we will submit to any restriction. There are only eleven speakers.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—The other motions are only for getting information, and they could be disposed of after the information is supplied.

President.—What you now suggest is that the time-limit of 5 minutes for each speaker is not sufficient in the case of these 4 cut motions. I think, if I allow only 5 minutes for every speaker, especially since we have only 11 speakers, we can finish off in less than an hour. So that the limit of two hours or so for "Public Works" will be sufficient. If found insufficient, we can extend it.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—For myself I do not want any more time than what is put down.

President.—I do not know how much time your Party may require. In any case I shall limit the discussion in this manner. 12—15 to 12—45—Scientific etc. Department, 12—45 to 2—Public Works. Then 3 to 3—45—Public Works, 3—45 to 4—55—Excise and 5 minutes for Customs.

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS. (contd.)

Demand No. XXIX, Scientific, etc., Department Rs. 1,11,900.

Mr. C. Matthai.—I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 1,11,900 for "Scientific, etc., Department." I may say that I am not concerned with the whole of this department. So I confine my

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